

ACCESS GUIDE – CASTLEHAVEN VILLAGE GREEN

Address

Castlehaven Lane, Niton, Isle of Wight

Postcode for Sat Nav: PO38 2ND

What 3 Words for site entrance: ///molars.throwaway.vast

How to get there:

By car and bike

Castlehaven Lane is a very rough road and is not suitable for all cars. The alternative is to park in St Catherine's Road near Buddle Inn and take the long flight of steps, which is footpath NT43 from opposite the Inn to Castlehaven Lane. The distance from the Buddle Inn to Castlehaven Village Green is 0.5 km and with an average incline of 1 in 10.

By public transport

Buddle Inn Stop (Route 6) and 15 minutes steep walk via Footpath NT43 and Castlehaven Lane as described above.

By foot

The new English Coastal Path will skirt the Village Green. Otherwise the site is reached via Castlehaven Lane or the Buddle Inn, as described above. There are other coastal paths to this site, but these are often closed due to landslips. We advise checking before planning to use anything that follows the coastline here.

A local person regularly visits the site with a mobility scooter, but it's only for the adventurous because of the unevenness of Castlehaven Lane.

Nearest public toilets

There are no nearby public toilets, the nearest ones being in Niton Village. The nearest toilets are at the next-door café at Castlehaven Caravan Site, during opening season and opening hours. There are also toilets and catering at the Buddle Inn.

Car and bike parking

There is no site car park but there is limited parking at the end of Castlehaven Lane. See notes above regarding car access and take care not to block the café or harbour.

There are currently no cycleracks but there are ample places to lock a bike.

Site entrance

There is no site gate. On arrival from Castlehaven Lane there is a site noticeboard, which is shared with the Parish Council. There is a multi-purpose bin that will take dog waste.

The site is accessed through low bollards that separate it from the path. There are gaps of approximately 1.3 metres between these bollards.

Getting around the site

This is a tiny site – approximately 175 square metres. It slopes towards the sea.

Most of the site is grass which is mown on a regular basis. The bottom of the site is usually scoured out by storms. There are gabions and rock armour between the site and the sea, these are not part of the site and it is not advised to climb on them as they will be slippery.

Whilst not part of the site, there is a beach to the east just past the harbour. The tide and currents make swimming here hazardous, even for experienced swimmers.

What you can see

- The views the Channel and the Atlantic Ocean the waves have come from Venezuela!
- If you are very lucky you might see a seal or two, or a dolphin,
- Cormorants sit on the posts in the water,
- Primroses are a cheerful sign of spring,
- We have planted some hardy plants in a bed to attract pollinating insects,

What you can hear

- Depending on the time of year you visit, there will be a variety of gulls,
- Listen to the waves crashing on the sea defences,

What you can smell

 Alexanders exude aromatic oils with a pungent, sweet smell that attracts a wide range of pollinating insects,

What you can touch

- As well as a normal bench, there is an old keel that is used as a seat,
- Find the old winch that used to pull boats from the harbour.

We look after Castlehaven Village Green for the benefit of the plants and animals that live here and for you as visitors...we hope you enjoy your visit.